

THE GORING AND ILEX CONSERVATION GROUP

Conserving the beauty and present character of Goring, the Ilex Avenue,
the trees in Sea Lane and the Goring Gap



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.15pm for 7.30pm Tuesday 19th Sept 2023 at
Methodist Church Hall, Bury Drive, Goring



Members and Non-Members are cordially invited

Following the AGM there will be a talk given by Huw Morgan from Sussex Wildlife Trust

Review of the Year

Introduction

We are delighted to be able to produce this newsletter and welcome you to our Annual General Meeting in September. As you can see our committee has been working hard on various matters over the year and the following reflects their commitment. We hope that you will find it interesting with news on Planning, Finance and our continued work in the Plantation.

Plantation

With restrictions of Covid gone we have been getting back to normal but several members have not returned, possibly to retiring from us gracefully. We continue to receive new volunteers to keep it fresh but we do need younger people to take on the heavier tasks,

Meeting once a month for 2 hours on the second Saturday of each month our volunteers have achieved no less than 400 hours physical work over the last 12 months making a huge difference. We usually provide tea and coffee and sometimes cake!

We have planted native Bluebells, Daffodils and Snowdrops that has become an annual autumn task. We have planted a few trees donated to us, but no large numbers this year.

Sadly, vandalism has become a huge problem with our container covered in graffiti and the roof dented. During the summer many of the wooden stakes were removed from new tree planting and used for BBQs on the greensward! Contact numbers for reporting incidents to police and council can be found on the notice board.

We have continued to cut down a large area of brambles and we can now begin to see through the trees that provides a safer area for visitors. The ground flora as a result has become more noticeable and colourful. Do read our reports in the various local free papers. Remember this work is completely carried out by volunteers from the community not by the council. If you are fit and able do come along and join us to help improve the Plantation even if it's only once a year. We thank all those volunteers that have come along in all weathers and helped improving the Plantation.

In April after consultation with the WBC Ranger our group cleared brambles and 'tidied up' part of the Ilex Avenue where it meets Aldsworth Avenue, we intend to revisit this area a couple of times each year.

For those that walk through the plantation keep an eye on our notice board as we do try and provide relevant information and dates of our next volunteering events.



Membership Subscriptions / Donations

Membership is a minimum of £1 per household. Feel free to pay more if you are able! Monies can be paid in by cash, cheque or preferably bank transfer. Our Santander bank account details are below.

Account Name	Goring & Ilex Conservation Group
Account Sort Code	09-01-29
Account Number	64220493
Reference	Post Code & House Number

A membership card / receipt will be issued for all monies received

Planning

A main feature of the last year has been the Persimmon application for 475 dwellings at Chatsmore Farm. A Judicial Review found that the previous decision of the Inspector in favour of the development was to be quashed. As may be expected, Persimmon made a final attempt at the Court of Appeal in May but the refusal was upheld. There is a final determination to be undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate but we expect that to be in the Council's favour.

The developments west of Goring which come under Arun planners, but which would have an effect on local green gaps and infrastructure have been refused which we hope also strengthens the case against the Chatsmore Farm proposals. As part of the ProGaps group, we sent in our objections to these proposals.

There was an application to demolish Forest Barn – a converted barn viewed as a typical Sussex agricultural cottage- at Castle Goring to be replaced with four unsympathetic dwellings. We objected to these proposals along with neighbours and the Worthing Society. This application was subsequently refused. We have commented on other proposals throughout the year where we consider them to be to the detriment of Goring.

Planning regulations are constantly changing. On the positive side, there is now less emphasis on government housing targets but against this the permitted development scope has been increased which includes the ability to add one or two additional storeys in the airspace to many homes. This is subject to limits and conditions, and an application for the Local Authority's prior approval.

There seems to be an increasing number of retrospective planning applications. This may be due to lack of knowledge and we recommend that before any substantial works are undertaken it would be useful to view the worthing planning website:- www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/planning/applications/do-i-need-permission/. This website gives information on planning, permitted development and Building Control.

Local Plan

The new Worthing Local Plan was adopted by the council at their meeting on 28th March. This had been delayed due to technicalities surrounding the Caravan Club site which have now been resolved to the Planning Inspector's satisfaction.

This Plan covers the period 2020-2036 and sets out policies which form part of the statutory development plan for the Borough and the planning policies used to determine local planning applications and includes protection for the Goring Gap.

Finance

Our accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 were independently reviewed, by our recently appointed Auditor.

We gratefully received Members donations and subscriptions of £1,096, and bank interest of £6. Our total costs were £1,424. These costs included our website set-up-fees and hosting £244; insurance £209 and printing £759.

Although there was a deficit of £322 for the year, our reserves at the 31st December 2022 totalled £6,319. £6,000 of these reserves comprises our Conservation Fund, which has accumulated steadily over many years and remains available to fund future costs, to protect Goring (for example, the continued defence of the Goring gap).

Website

Keep updated by visiting our website:- www.ilex-conservation-group.co.uk



The Goring & Ilex Conservation Group Subscription / Donation

Could you please bring the completed 'tear off' slip to the AGM or alternatively pop it into either of the two letterboxes below. A membership card will then be issued. Your details will be kept securely. Please be assured that we will not pass them on to any third party.

John Daley

48 Aldsworth Avenue

Bob Niall

34 Marine Crescent

Name.....

Address.....

Amount Enclosed / Paid In £.....

Tel.....